



Robert B. Baldwin, Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)
 “Bob”

Date of Designation: 23 September 1947 NA # 26083

Dates of Active Duty: 7 June 1944 - 31 July 1980

Total Flight Hours: 4,500

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 425

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,000 Prop: 1,500 VF/VA: 4,000

VR/VP: 200 VT: 300

Combat Tours

WW II: USS *Birmingham*, 1945, Okinawa campaign

Vietnam: CO, USS *Chipola*, 1966 and 1967

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-154, Jun. 1958 - Oct. 1958

CO, VF-51, Nov. 1961 - Oct. 1962

Commander, CVW-16, Nov. 1962 - Jan. 1964

CO, USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59), Aug. 1967 - Dec. 1968

Commander, CARGRU SIX, Dec. 1970 - Jul. 1972

COMNAVAIRPAC, May 1973 - Jul. 1976

COMSEVENTHFLT, 1976 - 1978

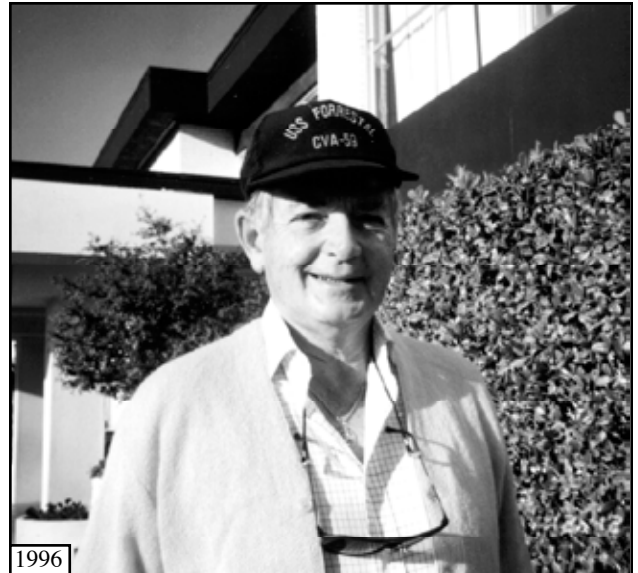
Combat Awards:

Bronze Star

Purple Heart

Duty Assignment Chronology

Robert Baldwin was born to Dr. and Mrs. William P. Baldwin in Minneapolis in 1923 and grew up in Fargo, North Dakota. Following graduation from high school, he entered the Naval Academy in 1941, graduating in 1944 with the wartime accelerated class of 1945.



His first assignment was to the cruiser *Birmingham* in the Pacific theater; he was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his actions following a kamikaze attack on the ship during the Okinawa campaign. After the war he entered flight training, winning his wings in 1947. His first fleet aviation assignment was in VA-44 embarked in USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* flying AD-1's. In 1949 he was ordered to VC-5, the Navy's first nuclear weapons capable squadron, flying the AJ-1. In 1951 he attended Test Pilot School and served in the Tactical Test Division and as an instructor at Test Pilot School.

In 1954 he reported to VC-3 at Moffett Field where he headed the FJ- 3 Transitional Training Team in the organization that was the forerunner of what are now Fleet Replacement Training Squadrons. Following VC-3 he served in VF-154, the first Pacific Fleet F8U-1 Crusader squadron, as Executive Officer and acting Commanding Officer. Then followed shore tours in BuPers and sea tours as CO of VF-51 in *Ticonderoga*, Commander Carrier Air Wing 16 in *Oriskany*, CO of the fleet oiler USS *Chipola* and the attack carrier USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59).

In 1968 he was selected for flag rank and after a Pentagon tour took command of Carrier Division SIX in the Atlantic Fleet and conducted the operational feasibility evaluation of the CV concept. After another Washington tour as Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel, he was promoted to Vice Admiral, in which grade he served as Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific Fleet, Commander Seventh Fleet, and Chief of Naval Personnel.

Following retirement he moved to Rancho Santa Fe, CA., and was involved in consultant work and the management of investment properties. He currently resides in Carlsbad, CA. A life member of the USNA Alumni Association, he served as its president 1989 - 1991. He married his wife, June, in 1950, and they have three children -- Scott, Jared and Sylvia.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Bombardier/Navigator in first Navy Special Weapons Squadron (VC-5) flying AJ's.
- (2) Test Pilot (TPS Class #8) - Tactical Test and TPS Staff, Pax River, 1952 - 1954.
- (3) FJ-3 Team Leader, Transitional Training Unit, PacFleet (forerunner of the RAG) - Moffett Field, 1954 - 1956.
- (4) XO/CO, VF-154, first PacFleet squadron to get the F8U-1, 1957 - 1958, NAS Moffett Field.
- (5) As COMCARGRU SIX, directed fleet evaluation of CV Concept, January 1971 - April 1972, Atlantic Fleet and Sixth Fleet.